AN

EDIFIEING WONDER,

OF

Two children dyeing 100 yeares old

OR

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE LAST HOURES

OF

SUSANNA BICKES,

(In the 14 yeare of her age) before her death. Septemb. 1. 1664.

ALSO OF

JACOB BICKES

her Brother of 7. yeares old. Aug. 6. 1664.

ESAI. 65. 20. The childe shall dye an hundred yeares old, bot the sinner being an hundreth yeares old shalbe accursed.

MATTH. 21. 16. Have ye never read. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfyted praise.

LUK. 18. 16, 17. And Jesus called the litle children to him, and said: Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdome of God. Verilie I say unto you: who so receiveth not the Kingdome of God as a litle childe he shall in nowise enter therein.

By Mr Simpson.

Printed in the Year 1666.

A LIGHTENING WONDER,

OR

A Two-children dying 100 years old.

OR

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE LAST HOURES

OF

SUSANNA BICKES,

(In the 14 years of her age) before her death, September, 1656.

JACOB BICKES

Her Brother of [illegible] Aug. 6. 1656.

THis was done at first in another language. And albeit I knowe that ther is soe much sobriety in the most able, who put pen to paper in those dayes, as maketh them to find some starring upon their owne spirits: when they suppose, how many of those who look upon a new book, may happen to welcome it into the world, with a word of snuffing disdaine, *Tush, the world is too full of books already.* Yet I am some what above the feare of the hardest censure for this small and indirect accession to the adding of one poor sheet more; that I am rather confident that (Read who will these few pages) his conscience within him (such as it is) will extort so much from him, like a testimony to the wayes of God that he shall at least say, *O that I may dye the death of the righteous, and that my latter end might be as his.* And that the Reader, who is taught the feare of the Lord, wilbe farther enlightened and refreshed, and perswaded of the wayes of holines. And more particularly of these few things following. First, that ther is a *Holy Ghost* which dwelleth in, and shalbe with the saints for ever. And 2. that he is *the comforter* who alone can and should comfort the soule. And 3. that his consolations are not small; by which ther is singing for joy of heart and glorificing God even in the fires, and by which beleivers are enabled to laugh at destruction and famine, and dearth and pestilence, and to list up their heads, and be able to stand before the Sonne of God, though they should live to see the greatest distresses of nations, and the shakeings of heaven and earth: which

make the hearts of the ſtoute to ſtoope, and faile. 4. That the pure ordinances of Chriſt are noe vayn things bnt ought to be much followed and cleaved unto, and that there Chriſt giveth *his loves*. 5. That the word is that ſword of the Spirit, and ther is none like it againſt that *Goliah*, that red Dragon, that Leviathan, and the King of Terrors. How mighty was this young Damſell in the Scriptures, and the young one wanted not his own number of Scripture places: by which, through grace, they did quit themſelves like men, and overcame: and, at their death, declared themſelves, by the faith and conſolation of the Scriptures, to have attained to the ſtature of perfect men. Chriſtians, know what houre it is of your day, and what is your work. Be faithfull in the leſſer or greater things of opportunity and means of working out your ſalvation. You do not know what evill may be upon the earth; albeit we know, that the Cup of trembling (go round as it will) from Nation to Nation, from Church to Church, from Citie to Citie, from Family to Family: yea, often, it beginneth at the houſe of God, and his own ſanctuary. Ezek. 9. 2 Pet. 3. But yet a little while, and it ſhalbe taken out of the hand of the Lords people, and the dregs therof ſhalbe wrung out by all the wicked of the earth, and that moſt Signally, by Antichriſt, apoſtates, ſeducers, perſecutors, and others alſo, who have a forme of Godlineſſe and deny the power therof.

THE

THE LAST HOURES OF SUSANNA BICKES

in the 14th yeare of her age.

SUSANNA BICKES borne in Leyden January 24. 1650. was visited from the hand of the Lord with the Pestilence, upon the 30. of August 1664. being Saturnday, betwixt 7. of 8. at night. And after the beginning of her sickneſſe, there were considerable præsages of her death. And very speedily she betooke herself to the great Physician of soule and body. The first night, she exercised herself to earneſt prayer, by herself alone (without many words, or speech to others) that God would furnish her with strength in her soule, to beare out that great conflict, which she did apprehend to be approaching with the waves of death: that she might by faith and patience, as becometh a dying Christian, partake of the victorie, which Christ hath purchased over death, to all these, for whom he himselfe had tasted of death. And as God had blest the preaching of the word abundantly to her, and the exercises privat and publict, upon the Catechisme: So, that she had acquired a merveilous measure of knowledge, and daily increasing

in the same (from the very day that she was in any capacity to learne: So, what instruction she received in the grounds of Religion: it did soe take hold upon her, that not only she retayned the notions therof in her understanding: But the impressions of the trueth wer engraven upon her heart, of which she gave remarkable proofes at this tyme of her death. And that the word of God had dwelt plentifully in her: wherby she was enabled to speak unto herselfe, and to sing with grace in her heart, making sweet melody to the Lord, while surrounded with the billowes of the King of Terrors, marching in battell array against her, with the terrible slaughter weapon of the Pestilence. As abundantly is evident by the ensueing words uttered by her, and faithfully collected, and, by the advyce and help of some judicious and Religious persons, published, for the use of others both old and young. The accompt whereof might have been much larger then heer it is done, but that severall things did escape the memories of the bystanders, and of the Demand, being partlie through grief, and partlie through wonder, diverted from the exact noteing of the things which she uttered.

Her understanding & affections both wrought upon together.

At the beginning of her sickness, (she was heard, with much feeling and power, breaking forth to God with these words, of Psalm. 119. If thy law wer not my delyt, I should perish in my affliction. Wherupon her

Gods word was the first, & surest foundation of all her comfort.

her Father said to her: Be of good comfort my child / the Lord wilbe neer unto thee / and us / under this heavie and sore tryal / and will not forsake us, although now he chasten us. David / by these words / belike / meane of the Lords hand which had been heavie both upon his house and upon his person severall wayes. Wherof we read in the Scripture. Yea Father / said she / Our heavenlie Father doth chasten us for our profit that we may partake of his holinesse. As we read Hebr. 12. 10, 11. And albeit (as it is said there) no chastening for the present time seemeth to be joyeous but greivous: nevertheless, afterwards, it yeeldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousnesse unto them who are exercised by it. The Lord is now chastening me upon this sick-bed / and I hope he will blesse it so / as to make it to yeeld unto me that same blessed fruit / according to the riches of his mercy and compassions which faile not: and then sighing to God with her eyes up to heaven / she said: be mercifull unto me / o Father / be mercifull unto me poore sinner according to thy word.

The Comfort & End of Afflictions.

Sense of Sin & of Need of mercy

And looking upon her sorrowing parents who stood by her. Father said she / It is said in the 55. Psal. vers 23. Cast thy burden upon the Lord: and he shall sustaine thee: for he will never suffer the righteous to be moved. Therefore / deare Father and Mother / cast all your care and sorrow upon the Lord who shall make all things goe well that concerne you. Oh (said the Mother) my

Our Burden of Cares & Sorrowes to be Cast upon the Lord.

deare child / I have had noe small comforte from the Lord in thee / and the fruites of his grace in thee / wherby thow hast been so much exercised unto godlinesse in the worde and prayer / and religious and gracious discourse unto thine whole and our comforte and edification. The Lord himselfe / who gave us thee / make up our loss of thee: If it be his pleasure that we must now parte one from another. O. Mother (said she) albeit I leave yow / yet God shall never forsake yow: for it is said Isai. 49. 15, 16. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the fruit of her wombe: yea she may forget: yet I wil not forget thee. Behold I have graven thee upon the palmes of my hand &c. Oh comfortable wordes both for mothers and children. Deare deare Mother / how fast the Lord keepeth and holdeth his people that he hath them (even) graven on the palmes of his hand. Therefore think with your self / that albeit I must parte with yow as ye with me / yet the Lord shall never separat from yow or me.

She being wearied though much speaking / desired to rest a litle: and after a verie little upon she awaked. Her Father asked how it was with her / but she asked what day of the week it is now. Her Father told her / it was the Lords day. Well said she / have ye given up my name to be remembered in the publike prayers. Her Father told her he had done soe. I have learned / said she / that the effectuall fervent prayer

of

of the Righteous doth availe much. The two worthie Ministers/ who are aftermentioned/ she wold have much desired they should have been by her/ but from her love to them/being much tender and carefull of their safetie/she wold not have them desired to visite her: but rather satisfied herselfe to be cast upon the Lords owne hand/ and to accept of/and improve the visits of others/ whom the providence of God should send unto her: or those (who being judged by the Church) sitt for the visiting of the sick in these caices of hazard) are wont to come with more freedom. Of whom their was one who used to come severall tymes to her/ and who was through the Lords blessing usefull to her: to whom she gave heartie thanks for his visit. And one tym/ after he was gone/ she began to weep bitterlie/ and her Father asked her the cause. Have I not matter for weeping/ said she/for what I have heard/ but just now/ by the visiter: that Domine de Witte was to day taken sick in the pulpit/ and went home so unwell. which is a sadd token for the people. For/ when God is about to smyte a Land or a Citie/often tymes he smyteth and removeth their Pastores/ and ought we not then to lay such a thing to heart. altho for my part/ I know that I shall not long live to behold the evill which may come/and which I have helped to procure als well as others. And therefore I pray with David Psa. 25. Remember not,

Her great love to & Care of Godlye Ministers.

O Lord

O Lord the ſinnes of my youth, nor my treſpaſſes, according to thy tender mercie, remember thou me for thy goodnes ſake, O Lord. **Oh how do I long**; even as the Hart panteth after the water brooks, ſo panteth my thirſtie ſoule after thee, O God. My ſoule thirſteth for God, the living God. **Oh how doth my ſoule thirſt all the day** after thee, O God. **Pſa. 42. And farther/ in the words of that 51. Pſal.** Have mercy upon me, O Lord, according to thy loving kindneſſe; according to the multitud of thy tender mercies, blot out my tranſgreſſions. **And ſo forward to the 11. vers/ which ſhe much inſiſted upon/ often repeating the ſame/ eſpecially the 5. vers/** Behold I was ſhapen in iniquitie, and in ſinne did my mother conceive me. **Upon which words ſhe enlarged her meditation and ſpeech/ according as ſhe had learned from the Scriptures and the Catechiſme/ and the books written thereupon for explication/ concerning that ſubject of originall ſinne. This is comed/ ſaid ſhe from the diſobedience and fall of our firſt parents in paradiſe/ that our nature is ſoe corrupted; that we are all/ altogider conceived and borne in ſinne: So we read alſo Gen. 5. 3. Thus/** Adam (it is ſaid) begat a ſonn after his owne likneſſe. **Sinne is not of God/ for** he hath formed man upright in the begining; but he hath ſought out many inventions. **Eccl. 7. 29.** Therefore, as by one man ſinne entered into the world, and death by ſinne, and ſoe death paſſed upon all men, for that all have ſinned: but death reigned from Adam to Moſes; even over them

them who had not ſinned after the ſimilitude of Adams tranſgreſſion. Rom. 5.

She ſpoke alſo many things verie judiciouſlie of the old man/and the putting off the ſame: and of the new man/and of the putting on thereof: from Eph. 4. and then ſhe fell again upon the 51. Pſa. and theſe words / The ſacrifices of God are a broken heart, a broken and a contrite Spirit, O Lord, thow wilt not deſpiſe? that brokenneſſe of heart / ſaid ſhe / which is built upon/ and / floweth from faith: and that faith which is built upon Chriſt/who is the propper and alone true ſacrifice for ſinne. And heerupon ſhe ſpoke of the offerings and ſacrifices of Abel and of Cain. Hebr. 11. 4.

Thereafter ſhe deſired to reſt and having ſlumbered a little / ſhe ſaid / ah dear F. and M. How weake doe I find my ſelfe. My dear child/ ſaid her Father/ God ſhall in his tender mercy ſtrengthen you in your weakeneſſe. Yea Father/ ſaid ſhe / that is my confidence / for it is ſaid Iſai. 42. The bruiſed reed he will not break, and the ſmoaking flax he will not quench. Should I not then believe / read Hebr. 11. How Abraham being proved of God did by faith offer up Iſaac in ſacrifice. Oh what a ſtedfaſt & loyall faith was that of Abraham/ which made him willing and readie to offer that his owne one ſonne. Oh/ what is faith? Faith is the ſubſtance of things hoped for, & the evidence of things not ſeen. Heb. 11. 1. Alſo 2. Tim. 2. 19. the fundation of God ſtandeth ſure, having this ſeale, The Lord knoweth

weth those who are his owne. But now deare F. and M. why weep ye soe over me / knowing soe well / I hope / that if the Lord shalbe pleased to take me out of this lamentable woefull world / it shalbe well with me / and that therwith ye ought to be content. It is said Psal. 115. Our God is in the heavens and doth all what soever he pleaseth. Yea / we pray every day that his will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Now Father / this is Gods will / that I lye upon this sick-bed of this diseas. Therefore we must be content that it be to us according to our prayer. Otherwise we then should murmure against God: without whose goodpleasure / nothing comes to pas. Although I be thus stricken with so heavy and sadd a diseas: yet it is the will of God / and ther is my silence. Therfore I will pray that his will be done and not myne. Therfore / Father / never doubt of Gods providence / for it is said Matth. 10. are not two sparrowes sold for a ferthing and that not one of them falleth to the earth without your Father, yea the haires of your head are also numbred. Therefore fear not: ye are better then many sparrowes. And Lam. 3. 38. There goeth not out of the mouth of the almightie good and evill. Adversity and prosperitie are both good. Some things may seem evill in our eyes / but the Lord turneth all to good. Amos 3. 6 Shall ther be evill in the city which the Lord doth not. Cometh not the Pestilence from God. Why then mean those people / who say that it

cometh by the aire? and is not the Lord the Creator and the Ruler of the air, and all the Elements. Or if it come out of the earth: yet is it of the Lord. What talke they that it came which a ship which was come from Africa. We have long agoe read together out of Lev. 26. 25. I shall bring a sword upon you to avenge the quarrel of my covenant, & when you are assembled in your cities, then shall I bring the pestilence in the midst of you.

After this, she sought some rest again: and having slumbred a little, she said, O now my dear Fat. and Mot. now is this day for the opening of the first quest. of the catechisme, and if we were there with others, we should heare, that whether in death, or life, we are the Lords. Christs our faithfull Saviour, who hath by his owne precious blood redeemed us from the power of the divel. And the following words, Rom. 14. 8. for none of us liveth to himself, & none of us dyeth to himself, for whether we live: we live unto the Lord, and whether we dye, we dye unto the Lord, whether then we live, or dye, we are the Lords. Then be comforted: for whether I dye, I shall dye to the Lord, or if I live I shall live to the Lord. The life which God at first gave me; I have as yet, and so long as the soule is in the body there is hope. wher for then doe ye so much afflict your selves. But what shall I say: with weeping I came into ye world, and with weeping must I goe out of it. Oh my deare parents, better is the day of death then the day of ones birth. Eccles. 7. 1. Ther is a

time to be borne, and a time to dye. If my time to dye, be not come, I ſhall then not dye. So then ye muſt comfort your ſelves / and thinke that God ſhall make all well. Ah my d. F. and M. let us pray together / and pray the Lord with me; that he would vouchſafe upon me a quiet and peaceable paſſage through death. Her Father / after he had prayed, being full of fatherlie ſympathie and care of ſuch a childe, both in what concerned her ſoul and bodie / aſked her / if he ſhould once more bring the phyſician to her. Nay / ſaid ſhe / the Doctor ſhall doe me nothing / nor can he help me / but I hope abundantly that my heavenly Father ſhall help me. Well / ſaid her Father / my child we ſhall uſe the ordinary meanes: and let the Lord bleſſe / as he ſees good. Yea / ſaid ſhe / deare Father / the heavenly Phyſitian is the true helper: he ſhall help / he can help both ſoul and body. It is ſaid Matth. 11. 28. Come unto me all ye who are weary, & heavie loaden and I will give you reſt. See there / Father / there is the helper / even as Pſa. 50. call upon me in the day of diſtreſs: I ſhall helpe you / and thou ſhalt glorifie me. All who are in trouble / muſt call upon God alone / for when humain helpe is gone: then beginneth Gods helpe for them who call upon him in trueth and in faith. Therfore let us once more pray. After her Father had prayed / the friend above-mentioned came to viſit her / and as the Lord had ſo opened and enlarged her heart that every word ſpoken to her from the

Scri-

Scripture tooke hold upon her with re-
freshing impression/ so was the visiter also
much refreshed by her/ wondering at the
grace of God in her / and that she spake so
pertinently and affectionately to her pa-
rents/ for comforting them. And so after
she had bid him thanks for his visit/ he took
his leave with tears: which were tears as
much of joy as sorrow. When he was gone/
she asked what day it was now / they told
her/ it was Monday. Then said she/ to mor-
row is the catechising day in our quarter.
There is one thing I will earnestly beg of
you/ Father / and that ye will promise it to
me/ and that is, that ye shall goe to Dom. de
White and Ardinois, and thanke them for the
learning and instruction which I reaped
by their catechising/ and tell them that these
excellent and brabe places of Scripture
which they taught me upon the catechisme
at the meetings in the Church/ have been/ and
are blessed of God for my comfort/ now The Ordin
upon my death bed / yea/ are usefull unto of Chatech
me/ for my salvation. Oh that sweet catechi- zing Sleps
sing: unto which I did always resort with
gladnes / and waited upon it without wea-
rieing/ untill it was ended. I have seen and
understood/ that there is so little comfort
and good/ & so much vanity in the Vermis
& holy idle dayes of play/ that I have grie-
ved/ and been ashamed both for young and
old people / to see them so glad and mad
upon vanity. Also dear Father ye shall
give thanks to my Schoolmaster / and

Maistresse, who taught me the first beginnings of my reading / I intreat and hope that ye will doe so / and not forget my thanks to the Ministers / as ye have already promised. Yea / said her Father / I promise you I shall / if the Lord preserve my life and health (which accordingly he did / at convenient occasion / on her behalfe: which was refreshing / & acceptable to these worthie men / as if it had been a present of another nature / from some greater personage.

Being wearied and weakened with speaking / she sought some rest; and having turned her to the wall / she slumbered about a quarter of an houre / and being awake / her Father asked how she did / and exprest somewhat of the great satisfaction and contentment he had in her reading / and writing / and her religious profiting. Yea Father / said she: in that ye have been so carefull for me / to get me to read and learne / hath been better to me / then if ye had provyded ten thousand gilders of portion for me: for thereby have I learned to comfort myselfe out of the word of God.

Her Father perceiving her growing weake / said to her / my dear child / I think thou becomes very weake. Yea said she / I feel it so more and more / as also your grief for me / I see / doth increase / which is a peece of my affliction. be content I pray you / it is the Lord who doth all this. And let us (with David 2 Sam. 24. 14.) fall in the Lords hand; for his mercies are great. David, while his chil-

childe was sick/ he fasted / and ate not: but when the childe was dead/ and God had declared his purpose in it; then he did eat. Yea/ why should I now fast/ said he? can I bring him back from death: I shall goe to him, but he shall not returne to me. 2. Sam. 12. 23. so ought ye to comfort yourself also/ after my death/ and say/ our childe is wel: for we know that they who trusted in God/ are well. My dear Mother/ who hath done so much for me/ ye must promise to me/ that after my death ye shall not sorrow so much: for I am afraid for you/ when I consider your grief for me/ and for my other sister/ and brother/ who are gone through death before me. And consider your neighbor/ who hath lost her two sonnes/ & hath no more children. Ye shall both of you promis me/ that yee will comfort one another. Comfort yourselves with Job, who haveing lost all his children, said, the Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord. Doe ye not think but it went very sadd with him. Ye know well that Christ said to the Apostles Joh. 16. 33. In the world ye shall have tribulation. But be of good comfort: in me ye shall have peace: I have overcome the world. And must the Apostles suffer so great tribulations? and shall not we endure some what. Yea/ hath not Jesus Christ my only life and savior/ in the garden of Gethsemane/ swatt blood for my sake. was he not mocked/ and spitted upon in Jerusalem: and / therafter / nailed unto the crosse: and a speare thrust through his blessed

side: and all this for my sake, for my stinking sinnes sake. Yea there he cried with a loud voice: my God, my God, wherefore hast thou forsaken me. Now thus hath he purchased his church with his own blood. Act. 20. 28. From the cross is that precious blood to be gotten / which alone can cleanse us from all sinne. 1. Joh. 4. 7. There did Jesus hang naked / who hath purchased to me the garment of salvation / and clothed me with the rob of righteousnes. Isai 6. 10. And salvation is in none other besides him. Yea there is no other name in heaven, or earth among men, by which to be saved. Act. 4. 12.

Oh deare F. and M. I ware more and more feeble / and weake. oh / that I may quietly fall asleep in his bosome: and till then / he may strengthen me / and take me in his armes / as he did the litle children / and said Mark. 10. 14. suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdome of God. And it is said vers 16. he took them in his armes, and laid his hands upon them, and blessed them. I lye heer as a childe. o Lord / I am a childe; receiv me into thy gratious armes. o Lord / grate / grace / and not justice / for if thou enter in judgement with me I can not stand. Yea no living shall in thy sight be justified. Psal. 143. 2. for there is none who sinneth not. 1. k. 8. 4. 6.

Thus with continued speaking she became verry faint / and all her strength seemed quite gone; yet she forced a trp more / ah my dear mother / ah how faint and feeble. This did so pierce the heart of her mother; that

that she could say nothing/but ah my dear child. Then began she again to comfort her mother: so long as my life is in this body/there is hope/said she. If it should please the Lord to recover me to life and health: how carefull/ and earnest would I be to please him/ in my work/ and learning/ and what he would require/ and lay upon me. And here upon again being a little more revived/ the Lord renued her strength wonderfully/to speak as before/ and to comfort herselfe/and her parents/ out of the scriptures/ saying with the Apostle Rom. 8. 28. we know that all things work together for good to those who love God; even to these who are the called of God, according to his purpose. O God/ establish me with thy free spirit: that I never fall from thy love. Yea/it's said there/ who shall separat us from the love of Christ. I am perswaded that neither life, nor death, nor Angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor deepth, nor any other creature; shall separat us from the love of God; which is toward us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Also Joh. 10. 27, 28, 29. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I give unto them eternall life, and they shall never perish, and no man shall plucke them out of my hand. my Father, who gave them me, is greater then all, and none shall pull them out of my Fathers hand. But now let me rest a litle.

After some slumbering/ she spake to her Father again/ with much gladnes/ and joy of heart. It is said/ saith she 1. Cor, 15.

54,55,56,57. death is ſwallowed up of victorie: o death where is thy ſting; o Hell? where is thy victorie, the ſting of death is ſinne, and the ſtrength of ſinn is the law: but God be thanked who giveth us victory, through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt. **There ep / ſee that my dear ſavio2 hath overcome death? and the ſting of death? who then would not be earneſtly content to dye. fo2 we must all once dye. We are from the earth / and to the earth we must returne / the duſt is mother of us all.** Eccl. 12.7. the duſt ſhall turne to duſt, from whence it is, and the ſpirit to God, who gave it. **So that my ſpirit ſhall turne to God / who is the giber of all things. But oh / what is mans life upon earth.** The dayes of man upon earth are as the graſs, as the flowre of the field, ſo he flooriſheth. The wind paſſeth over it, and it is no more. And his place knoweth him no more. Pſal. 103. 15, 16. **And if a man ſhould live long; yet the longer he ſhould live / he ſhould the moze have ſinn.** Pſal. 90. 10. The dayes of our yeares are threeſcore and ten yeares. And if by ſtrength, they be fourſcore: yet is the ſtrength therof labor and ſorrow. **Now the Lo2d ſhall free me from all that labo2 / and that ſo22ow. Suppoſe / and think with pourſelves / that pe were both ſick / and the Lo2d ſhould come and take pou from us / and leave us poore childzen behind pou? How farr gzeater loſs ſhould that ſeem fo2 us. Is it not better that the Lo2d remove us firſt / who would / belike / have ſo few freinds behind pou. Bot we know not the thoughts of the Lo2d: pet we know /**

The mortality of the Body, & Immortality of ye Soule.

they

they are peace and good/and not evill/and to give an expected end/ unto good. But oh! what shall I say; my life shall not continue long/ I feel so much anxiety. Oh/ Lord/ look upon me graciously: have pitty upon my weake and distressed heart/ my distressed soule: I am oppress/ undertake for me/ that I may stand fast and overcome. Here again/ a little reviving/ she said.

It is said/ Joh. 14. 16. I wil pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, who shall remain with you for ever, even the spirit of trueth. O Lord let him not leave me. O Lord continue with me/ till my battell and worke be finished. Without thee I can doe nothing. Joh. 15. 5. I am, said Christ/ the true vine, and my Father is the husband-man. ah/ ah/ my God let me be a branch of that living vine. Oh/ what are we poor wormes/ who can of ourselves do nothing. O dear Father/ how lame/ and halting goe we in the wayes of God and salvation. 1. Cor. 13. 9, 10. For we know but in part, and we prophecie but in part, but when that which is perfect is come: then shall that which is in part be done away. Oh that I had attayned to that. Now: but what are we of ourselves. Gen. 6. 5 see/ not only/ the weakenes/ & nothingnes/ but also the wickednes of man: that all the imaginations of the thoughts of the heart are evill, and only evill continually. and Eph. 2. We were by nature the children of wrath, and are conceived and borne in sinne, and unrighteousnes. Psal. 51. Oh/ oh/ this wretched and vile thing/ sinn.

Selfe renounced Christ owned

Her dear sense of Original Sin.

But

But thanks be to God who hath redeemed me from it. Rom. 8. 15, 16, 17. Ye have not received the ſpirit of bondage again to feare: but ye have received the ſpirit of adoption, by which ye crie Abba, Father. It is the ſpirit which witneſſeth with our ſpirit that we are the children of God. And if children, then are we heirs; Heirs of God, and ioint heires with Chriſt. Thence ye ſee, Father, that I ſhalbe a fellow heir with Chriſt, who hath ſaid Joh. 14. 2, 3. In my Fathers houſe are many mantions, I goe to prepare a place for you. And if I goe to prepare a place for you, I will come againe, and take you to my ſelfe, that where I am, there ye may be alſo. O Lord take me to thy ſelfe. Behold, dear M. he hath prepared a place and dwelling for me. Yea, my dear child, ſaid her Mother he ſhall ſtrengthen you, with his holy ſpirit, untill he hath fitted you, and prepared you fully for that place, which he hath prepared for you. Yea Mother, it is ſaid in Pſal. 84. How lovlie are thy Tabernacles, O Lord of hoſts: my ſoule doth thirſt, and longeth for the courts of the Lord: one day in thy courtes, is better then a thouſand. Yea, ſaid David, I had rather be a doorekeeper in the houſe of my God, then to dwell in tents of the wicked. Read that Pſalm D. M. and therwith ye may comfort one another. As for me, I am more and more ſpent, and draw neer to my laſt houre. Pray with me. Pray that the Lord would vouchſafe unto me a ſoft death. And when they had prayed with her, ſhe turned her to her Mother, and with much af-

fection

fection / she said / ah my dear and loving Mother / that which cometh from the heart / doth ordinarily goe to the heart. Once come and kiss me before I leave you / and also my dear father / and my sister. And / father / let my sister be trained up in the wayes of God / as I have been / I bewailed and weeped for my sister / thinking she should dye; and now she weepeth for me. Also / she took her young litle sister in her armes / a child of 6. monethes old / and she kissed it with much affection / as if her bowels had been moved: and spake with many heart-breaking words / both to the parents / and the children. Her father said to one standing by; Take from her that poore lambkin / from the hazard of that fierie sickneſſe. Give her from you: for we have too much already to beare. Well father / said she / did not God preserv the three children in the fierie furnace. Be yourself learned me from Isai 43. 3. When thou passest through the fire, thou shalt not be burnt; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Parents teaching Sanctifyg

After this / she had some litle rest / and being awaked / she said. We read 1. Cor. 15. 42, 43. The body is sown in corruption; but shalbe raised incorruptible. It is sown in dishonour, but shalbe raised in glory: it is sown in weakness, but shalbe raised in power. Behold thus it is / and thus it shalbe with my poore mortal flesh. Rebel. 14. 13. Blessed are the dead who dye in ye Lord, becaus they doe rest from their la-

labour, and their workes shall follow them. Isai. 57. 1, 2. The righteous perish, and no man layeth it to heart; and the upright are taken away, and no man regardeth it; that they are taken away before the evill which cometh. They shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, every one who have walked in their uprightnesse. **Behold now father / I shall rest and sleep in that bed-chamber.** Also Job saith / chap. 19. 25, 26, 27. I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though, after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. Whom I shall see for my selfe, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reines be consumed within me. **Behold now / father / this very skin which ye see / and this very flesh / which ye see / shalbe raised up again: and these very eyes / which now are so dim / shall on that day see and behold my dear and glorious Redeemer. Albeit the wormes shall eat up my flesh; yet with these eyes shall I behold God: even I myselfe and not another for me.** Joh. 5. 28, 29. Mervell not for this: for the houre is coming, in the which all who are in the grave, shall heare, and come foorth: these who have done good, unto the resurrection of life. **See / Father / I shall rise on that day / and then I shall behold my Redeemer; then shall he say / come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the** Kingdome prepared fore you, before the beginning of the world. **Behold / now** I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life that I now

live in the flesh, is by the Faith of the Sonne of God, who loved me, and hath given himself for me. I am saved, and that of grace, through faith: and that not of my self; it is the gift of God. Not of works; lest any should boast. Eph. 2. 8. 9. Oh my dear Parents! now we must shortly part: my sweet sister mine. pray the Lord for a quiet close to my combat. Oh mine dear childe! how sad is that to us! that we must part. Yes said she; I goe to heaven, and there shall we find one another. I goe to Jesus Christ, and to my Brother Jacob, who did so much cry to God, and call upon him, to the very last breathing: and to my little sister, which was but three years of age, when it dyed: and when we asked it? if it would dye: yea, said it, if it be Gods will. I will goe to my little brother, if the Lord will. Oh I will also stay with my Mother, if it be his will: but I know that I shall dye, and goe to heaven, to God. Oh see how soft a babe, to which so much grace was given, as to have it self, every way, and in all things, so subjected, and submitted to the will of God: as if it had no will of it's own: it said alwaies, if it be the will of God: if it please God. Nothing for it, but as it was the will of God, to the pleasure of God, &c. And therefore, dear F. and M. give the Lord thanks for this his free, and rich grace: and then I shall the more gladly be gone. Be gracious then O Lord unto me also, be gracious to me, wash me throughly from my

my unrighteousnes, & cleanse me from my sinne.
He is said Esay. 1. Although your sinnes were
as scarlet, they shalbe white as snow. Although
they were red as crimson, yet they shalbe as woll.
Behold, God hath now given mee a lively sight
of my sinne, that I see it lodged far in this body,
according to S. Paule, warring against it, and grea-
ting for our housse which is in heaven; that
we might be cloathed vpon. 2. Cor. 5.
Now I also in mine suffring, and longing
for that dwelling (which is above.) In
the last sermon (which I heard, or shall
ever heare, on earth) I heard of this in
the new birth (which is a matter of great
comfort in our
When she brought forth all notable
scriptures, which were quoted in that ser-
mon, especially. Revel. 21. And then she
called for prayer. Pray with me, said she,
that my sins may be forgiven me, and that
I may have the more abundant fruits and
assurance of it, and the increase of that
same grace, and the strength of that cons-
stancy, according to my necessity. She
prayed herself, and continued a pretty space.
After prayer (in which she insisted prin-
cipally for pardon of sinne) she said, my
good masters, I have I confess, offended
you, & me in time, or done what became me
not, forgive it me. & poor childe, say
they, if all children carried so to their pa-
rents, as thou hast done, there should be
less grief and sorrow upon all hands.
Then, any such thing had escaped her, we
would

would suppose it / saith she, behold heaven you have done and spoke in vain. [illegible] The heart of the being quieted by her prayer with God her Father in the heavens, and her pleade with her parents on Earth / then she began to dispone her bodily and other little things: and as the grace of God had made her so wise unto salvation, so she did shewe forth proportion of christian prudence / almost in every thing / smaller / and greater. And then mother / said she / ye shall keep my Catechise book / in remembrance of me. Ye shall keep Doctor Wits Catechisation / so long as ye live / and let my little sister have the other book / as my remembrance. In the mean while she told that she found her heart exceedingly pained / and overwhelmed / and that she lineed that her life should quickly passe away. Her Father speaking a word / as he was able / hoping the Lord would be neer with his strength in this sad hour of her necessity. Yea / said she / The Lord is my shepherd: Although I pass through the shadow of the valley of death; I will not feare, for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff shall comfort me Psa. 23. And it is said / Rom. 8. the sufferings of this present life, are not worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us. Shall I not suffer and endure, seing my glorious Redeemer behooved to suffer so much. Oh how was he mocked / and spitted on / and crowned with thornes / that he might purchase a crowne

of righteousnesse for me. And that is the
crowne / of which Paul saith / I have fought
I have fought the good fight / I have finished
my race / and kept the faith. Henceforth / is
laid up for me / a crowne of righteousnesse / which
the Lord / the righteous Judge / shall give unto me
in that day: and not only to me / but to all who
love his appearing. 2. Tim. 4. 8. Ye are bought
with a price: therefore glorifie God in your bodies
and in your / which are his. Must I not then
exalt / and bless him / while I have being /
who hath bought / yea bought me with his
blood. Isai 53. Surely he hath borne our griefes,
& carried our infirmities: & we esteemed him smit-
ten and stricken of God. But he was wounded for
our transgressions: and bruised for our iniquities: the
chastisement of our peace was upon him, and
through his stripes are we healed. And the Lord
hath laid on him the iniquities of us all. Joh. 1.
Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the
sinne of the world. Behold / that Lamb is
Jesus Christ, also / for my sinnes / he hath
satisfied. So said Paul 1. Cor. 6. 11. Ye are
washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the
name of the Lord Jesus, and through the Spirit
of our God. My end is now very neer.
Now shall I put on white raiment / and
be cloathed before the Lamb / that spotlesse
Lamb / & with his spotlesse righteousnesse.
Now are the Angels waiting, ready to car-
ry my soule before the throne of God.
Those are they who are come out of great tribu-
lation, who have washed their robes, and made
them white in the blood of the Lamb. Revel. 7.

She spake this with a dying voice; but full of the Spirit / and of the power of faith. And this her lively assurance / and perswasion of her salvation / she further uttered with the words of Paul / 2. Cor. 5, 1, &c. For we know, that if this earthlie house of our tabernacle, be dissolved; we have one, which is built of God, a house not made with hands, but eternall in the heavens. For in this we sigh for our house, which is in heaven, that we may be cloathed therewith. There / Father / ye see that my body is this tabernacle / which now shall be broken downe. My soule shall now parte from it / and shall be taken up into heavenly Paradise / into that heavenly Jerusalem. There shall I dwell / and goe no more out; but sit and sing / holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of hosts, the Lord of sabaoth. And her last words; O Lord God, into thy hands I commit my Spirit. O Lord be gracious / be mercifull unto me a poor sinner; and heerupon she fell asleep. Being the 1 of September in the evening betwixt 7 and 8: having obtained / very remarkablie / that which / so often / she intreated of the Lord: to wit / a soft and quiet departure / and the end of her faith / the salvation of her soule.

Heer follow the last words of her

BROTHER JACOB

a childe of 7 yeares old.

THis little childe was visited by the Lord with a very sore sickness upon the 6 of August, three or 4 weeks before his sister, of whose death we have given some account already. For most part he slepeth till neer his death. That which he spake ordinarie, when he was awake, is, in these few words following, communicated to the christian Reader. So often as he awaked, he gave himself to pray. Once when his parents had prayed, they asked him, if they should not, once more, call for the Physician. Nay said he dear Fa. and Mo. I will not have the Doctor any more: The Lord shall help me. I know he shall take me to himself, and then he shall help all. Why my dear child, said the Father, that maketh my heart sore. Well, said the childe, Father, let us pray; and the Lord shall be neer, for my helper. And as the parents had again prayed, he said, come now dear Fa. and Mo. and kiss me. I know now, that I shall dye. Adew dear Fa. and Mo. adew my dear sister: adew all. Now shall I goe to heaven unto God, and Jesus

Christ,

Christ/ and the holy Angels. Father/ know ye not what is said/ by Jeremie chap. 17. Blessed is he who trusteth in the Lord. Now I shall trust in him/ and he will bless me. And 1. Joh. 2. Little children, love not the world; for the world passeth away. away then all that is the world: away with all my pleasant things in the world. away with my dager (which a Student had propined him) for where I goe/ there is nothing to doe with dager/ and sword. Men shall not fighte there/ but praise God. Away with all my books/ for where I goe/ there is nothing adoe with books: There I shall know and be learned/ sufficiently/ all things of true wisdom/ and learning/ without books. The Father being astonished with wonder/ knew not well what to say; but/ my dear childe/ the Lord will be neer to thee/ and uphold thee. Yea/ Father/ said he/ the Apostle Peter saith. God resisteth the proud but he giveth grace unto the humble. I shall humble myself under the mightie hand of God; and he shall help/ and lift me up. Ah my dear childe/ said the Father/ hast thou so strong a faith. God will strengthen thy faith. Yea said the childe/ Father/ God hath given me so strong a faith upon himself/ through Jesus Christ; that the Divel himself shall flee from me: for it is said Joh. 3. He who beleiveth on the sonne, hath everlasting life, And hath overcome the wicked one. 1. Joh. 2. Now I believe in Jesus Christ my Redee-

deemer / and he will not leave nor forsake me. but I shall give unto me eternall life. Then shall I sing holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Sabaoth. And with the short words of prayer. Lord be mercifull to me a poore sinner. He quietly breathed it out / and fleept in the Lord, August 8. 1664.

To conclude; we may see heer / by the mouth of these children (being, as it were, two or three of that blessed cloude of witnesses. Hebr. 12. 1.) That verified / which we read / Isa. 65. 20. THE CHILDE SHALL DIE AN HUNDRED YEARES OLD. Reader I have noe more to say to thee, but / as thou would wish to live for ever / stand in awe of that which followeth / immediatlie / in that same vers: BUT THE SINNER / though AN HUNDRED YEARES OLD, SHALL BE ACCURSED.

FINIS